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PATENT COOPERATION TREATY



PCT

INTERNATIONAL PRELIMINARY EXAMINATION REPORT

(PCT Article 36 and Rule 70)

Applicant's or agent's file reference 62 877	FOR FURTHER ACTION See Notification of Transmittal of International Preliminary Examination Report (Form PCT/IPEA/416)	
International application No. PCT/FR2003/002770	International filing date (day/month/year) 19 septembre 2003 (19.09.2003)	Priority date (day/month/year) 24 septembre 2002 (24.09.2002)
International Patent Classification (IPC) or national classification and IPC G10L 15/18, 15/22		
Applicant THALES		

1. This international preliminary examination report has been prepared by this International Preliminary Examining Authority and is transmitted to the applicant according to Article 36.
2. This REPORT consists of a total of <u>5</u> sheets, including this cover sheet. <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> This report is also accompanied by ANNEXES, i.e., sheets of the description, claims and/or drawings which have been amended and are the basis for this report and/or sheets containing rectifications made before this Authority (see Rule 70.16 and Section 607 of the Administrative Instructions under the PCT). These annexes consist of a total of <u>9</u> sheets.
3. This report contains indications relating to the following items: I <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Basis of the report II <input type="checkbox"/> Priority III <input type="checkbox"/> Non-establishment of opinion with regard to novelty, inventive step and industrial applicability IV <input type="checkbox"/> Lack of unity of invention V <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Reasoned statement under Article 35(2) with regard to novelty, inventive step or industrial applicability; citations and explanations supporting such statement VI <input type="checkbox"/> Certain documents cited VII <input type="checkbox"/> Certain defects in the international application VIII <input type="checkbox"/> Certain observations on the international application

Date of submission of the demand 13 avril 2004 (13.04.2004)	Date of completion of this report 21 December 2004 (21.12.2004)
Name and mailing address of the IPEA/EP	Authorized officer
Facsimile No.	Telephone No.

INTERNATIONAL PRELIMINARY EXAMINATION REPORT

International application No.

PCT/FR2003/002770

I. Basis of the report

1. With regard to the elements of the international application:*

- ☒ the international application as originally filed
- ☒ the description:
- pages _____, as originally filed
- pages _____, filed with the demand
- pages 1-7, filed with the letter of 17 September 2004 (17.09.2004)
- ☒ the claims:
- pages _____, as originally filed
- pages _____, as amended (together with any statement under Article 19
- pages _____, filed with the demand
- pages 1-9, filed with the letter of 17 September 2004 (17.09.2004)
- ☒ the drawings:
- pages 1/3-3/3, as originally filed
- pages _____, filed with the demand
- pages _____, filed with the letter of _____
- ☐ the sequence listing part of the description:
- pages _____, as originally filed
- pages _____, filed with the demand
- pages _____, filed with the letter of _____

2. With regard to the language, all the elements marked above were available or furnished to this Authority in the language in which the international application was filed, unless otherwise indicated under this item.

These elements were available or furnished to this Authority in the following language _____ which is:

- ☐ the language of a translation furnished for the purposes of international search (under Rule 23.1(b)).
- ☐ the language of publication of the international application (under Rule 48.3(b)).
- ☐ the language of the translation furnished for the purposes of international preliminary examination (under Rule 55.2 and/or 55.3).

3. With regard to any nucleotide and/or amino acid sequence disclosed in the international application, the international preliminary examination was carried out on the basis of the sequence listing:

- ☐ contained in the international application in written form.
- ☐ filed together with the international application in computer readable form.
- ☐ furnished subsequently to this Authority in written form.
- ☐ furnished subsequently to this Authority in computer readable form.
- ☐ The statement that the subsequently furnished written sequence listing does not go beyond the disclosure in the international application as filed has been furnished.
- ☐ The statement that the information recorded in computer readable form is identical to the written sequence listing has been furnished.

4. ☐ The amendments have resulted in the cancellation of:

- ☐ the description, pages _____
- ☐ the claims, Nos. _____
- ☐ the drawings, sheets/fig _____

5. ☐ This report has been established as if (some of) the amendments had not been made, since they have been considered to go beyond the disclosure as filed, as indicated in the Supplemental Box (Rule 70.2(c)).**

* Replacement sheets which have been furnished to the receiving Office in response to an invitation under Article 14 are referred to in this report as "originally filed" and are not annexed to this report since they do not contain amendments (Rule 70.16 and 70.17).

** Any replacement sheet containing such amendments must be referred to under item 1 and annexed to this report.

V. Reasoned statement under Article 35(2) with regard to novelty, inventive step or industrial applicability; citations and explanations supporting such statement**1. Statement**

Novelty (N)	Claims	4-6, 8-9	YES
	Claims	1-3, 7	NO
Inventive step (IS)	Claims		YES
	Claims	1-9	NO
Industrial applicability (IA)	Claims	1-9	YES
	Claims		NO

2. Citations and explanations

1. This report makes reference to the following documents:

D1: US-A-6 141 661 (BROWN ET AL), 31 October 2000
(2000-10-31)

D2: US 2002/035471 A1 (BRETON), 21 March 2002
(2002-03-21)

2. The present application does not comply with PCT Article 33(1) because the subject matter of claims 1 and 7 does not meet the requirement of PCT Article 33(2) for novelty.

- 2.1 Document D1 describes (abstract; figures 2 and 3; column 1, lines 50-56; column 3, lines 22-26; column 3, lines 55-65) a speech recognition system in which, after a recognition error, the grammar used for decoding is modified so as to inhibit the erroneous solution. Document D1 mentions the recognition of identifiers which can comprise any combination of alphanumeric characters. In fact, certain combinations must be read as a phrase, rather than as a word.

For example, if the identifier to be recognised is AE439J, it will be interpreted by the recognition system as the result of the following phrases: [A E 4 3 9 J], or [A E 439 J], or even [A E 43 9 J].

If, during a first recognition pass, the identifier AA439J is recognised, for example, the recognition grammar will be modified upon a user's action to exclude this solution during a second pass.

The subject matter of claims 1 and 7 is therefore known from D1.

- 2.2 Dependent claims 2-3 do not contain any features which, in combination with the features of any claim to which they refer, define a subject matter which would meet the PCT novelty requirements, since the corresponding features are also known from D1.
- 2.3 Dependent claims 4-6, 8 and 9 do not contain any features which, in combination with the features of any claim to which they refer, define a subject matter which would meet the PCT inventive step requirements.

The features of claims 8 and 9 are known from D2 (abstract; paragraph 13) and their integration in the system defined by D1 is an implementation alternative which is known to a person skilled in the art and does not require an inventive input.

The anticipated calculation of alternative solutions defined in claims 4-6 is conventional in the field in question (choice of the second most probable solution, N-Best principle) and its implementation does not require an inventive input either.